



Lephalale Municipality

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lephalale Municipality had the honour this week of hosting the opening of the National Imbizo Focus week. The traditional house and community of Ga-Seleka received Communication Minister, Faith Muthambi with open arms and welcomed her to one of the fastest growing municipalities in South Africa.

The National Imbizo Focus week which kicked off on Monday, 30 November in Ga-Seleka will end on Sunday 6 December. The aim of the week is to create a platform for national, provincial and local government to engage with communities throughout South Africa.

At Ga-Seleka the Minister congratulated the municipality for continually communicating government programmes and updates to the community. "Here at Ga-Seleka today we found a community that does not merely complain but comes forward with solutions and plans for a better society. I can see that this community is well informed about local government's development plans," the Minister said at the gathering held at the Ga-Seleka community hall where more than 1000 people attended the event.

The Mayor of Lephalale, Cllr Moloko Jack Maeko thanked the Minister for choosing Ga-Seleka as the venue for the event. He announced that the municipality through the sponsorship of a local telecoms company installed WI-FI internet at the Ga-Seleka tribal council. Minister Muthambi handed over five donated tablets to Kgosi Seleka and members of the council.

As part of the event the Minister and a delegation which included political leadership within the Waterberg District, led by the Executive District Mayor Cllr Rosina Mogotlane, visited the 66 megawatt solar photovoltaic plant project at Tom Burke. The CEO of Enel Green Power, Mr. Lamberto Dai Pra, received the minister at the project site and gave a quick overview of the R18 billion project. When completed in August 2016, the project will add enough electricity to the national grid to supply an equivalent of 40 000 households with electricity. The company has also committed to several projects within the local community including Wi-Fi internet access and a HIV programme which will be launched in conjunction with the Lephalale Municipality.



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Mayor, Jack Maeko said that the project is adding value to the area and ultimately plays an important part in fulfilling the vision of Lephalale becoming the energy hub of Africa. He congratulated the company for employing locally as 99% of the 260 employees at the plant are local residents.

Following the site visit the Minister visited several houses in Ga-Seleka to determine whether residents are receiving basic services. Accompanied by the Mayor, the Minister promised to address all issues raised and to return to the area within three months to see progress made. The Mayor also gave his assurance that service delivery will remain top priority within the boundaries of Lephalale Municipality.

Local Government departments and Department of Communications entities including the SABC, ICASA, the Film and Publication Board, Brand SA and the Media Diversity Development Agency, were also in attendance to inform the community about their service offerings.

Lephalale Municipality is located in the north western part of Waterberg District of Limpopo Province of the Republic of South Africa. It borders with four local municipalities (Blouberg, Modimolle, Mogalakwena and Thabazimbi). Its north-western border is also part of the international border between South Africa and Botswana. The Lephalale municipality is the biggest Municipality in the Limpopo province (covering 14 000km²).

Lephalale Local Municipality has been identified by LEGDP as a petrochemical cluster and has attained the status of national development node. The coal fields which boast more than 40% of the total coal reserve of South Africa are located in Lephalale.

Queries:

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